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# CLASS

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

# *notes*



April 30, 2015



## Welcome to the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University

Greetings!

As our spring term winds to a close, CLASS begins to finalize year-end processes, purchases, and new hires. In the next few short weeks, we hope to have hired thirty faculty across the College. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Jason Slone has accepted the position of associate dean of CLASS effective July 1, 2015. Dr. Slone will be joining us from the faculty of Tiffin University where he is currently chair of the psychology program; he previously held appointments at Webster University and University of Findlay. Dr. Slone earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Religion from Western Michigan University, an M.A. in Comparative Studies in the Humanities from The Ohio State University, and a B.A. in Religious Studies from the College of Wooster. Dr. Slone has an extensive background with interdisciplinary studies in the liberal arts and will be a welcomed addition to the College.

It is a busy and exciting part of the year, especially as we prepare to graduate students from a variety of programs across the many disciplines we offer. We wish the best of luck to all our students as they head into finals' week!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Curt Pickett".

## Department of Writing & Linguistics

The Department of Writing and Linguistics has much to celebrate. Our faculty are very busy producing scholarship and presenting diverse topics in conferences around the country. Led by co-chairs Peggy Lindsey and Nan LoBue, the department hosted the 15th annual Student Success in Writing Conference at the Coastal Georgia Center on April 17 and 18. This marks the first year that the conference was a two-day event. The Conference promotes the success of students in writing courses at the secondary and post-secondary levels and seeks to establish and maintain dialogue between college and high school educators.

Tim Giles presented a paper titled "The Meaning of Metaphor for Aristotle as a Science Writer" to the College Composition and Communication Conference, on March 20th, 2015.

Laura Valeri had a piece "Thieving Magpies" accepted in Fiction Southeast, her book review of Jason Ockert came out in the *Sycamore Review*, her short memoir "My Grandfather, The Fascist" is coming out in *Temenos*, and she presented at the Fairhope Writers' Conference in "Bringing Creativity to the Traditionally Uncreative Writing Class" where she read with poet Rick Campbell and poet Patti White. She also completed and submitted two grants.

Theresa Welford presented the panel "YouTube: Epic Time-Suck, Epic Tool for Teaching Creative Writing" at the Student Success in Writing Conference, Savannah, GA, April 17, 2015.

Jessica Nastaal Dema presented on a roundtable entitled, "The High-Stakes Writing Classroom: Expectations, Risks, and Assessments" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in March. Jared Yates Sexton also facilitated the CCCC Committee on Assessment's workshop entitled, "The Risks and Rewards of Assessment: A Workshop for WPAs and Writing Instructors."

Martha Lee presented a paper titled "To Be or Not to Be? Irish, That Is" at the annual meeting of the International ACIS (American Conference for Irish Studies) sponsored this year by the University of Miami. This presentation examined common stereotypes of the Irish in American film and television.

Michael Pemberton led two workshops on "Writing to Learn" at the Center for Teaching and Technology, Georgia Southern University, April 10, 2015, and presented a paper on "Rhetorical Spaces and the 1939 World's Fair: Normalizing Progress and Objectifying the Other" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication. He also served as a co-leader for a pre-conference workshop on "Rewriting Plato's Legacy: Ethics, Rhetoric, and Writing Studies," at the Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Christina Olson has new poetry in *Juked*. Her prose chapbook, *Rook & The M.E.*, was released by Red Bird Chapbooks at the 2015 Association of Writers & Writing Programs in Minneapolis, MN.

Dr. Kathy Albertson has been awarded the second in a pair of National Writing Project grants of \$10,000 each for May 2015 through August 2016. The purpose of the grant is "to expand and develop teacher leadership to improve the teaching of writing and learning in the nation's schools."

Eric Nelson's poem "Graying" appears in the May issue of *The Sun*. Two poems, "The Tenderness of Ice" and "The Yard in April," will appear in *Comstock Review* later this year.

Jared Yates Sexton's stories "A Black Label Man," "Mr. Wimbledon," "The Extra Mile," and "Punch-For-Punch," were published in *Miracle Monacle*, *Whiskey Paper*, *storySouth*, and *Good Men Project* respectively, and his stories "Where We Are," "Bear Fight," and "Knights" were accepted for publication by *The Rappahannock Review*, *Night Train*, and *Little Fictions* respectively. He will present a panel at the Barrelhouse Literary Conference in Washington, D.C., in April, and the North American Review Literary Conference in Iowa this summer.

## At the Head of the CLASS

My name is Kristen Flipppo. This semester counts down the final days of my second year as a major in the Department of Writing and Linguistics. I have been lucky enough to have gotten involved in such a hard working, beautiful, fun loving department. Through being in this department I have learned how to push myself to achieve goals I never thought I could accomplish, to adapt to situations that are out of my control, and to continue to keep working even when I just want to quit. I have learned so much from my Writing and Linguistics professors that I could apply to workplace experiences and to in my professional interactions with people, such as at discipline-specific conferences. The Department of Writing and Linguistics has made me feel confident that I can get a job with the skills I have gained here.

From this department and through the guidance of my professors here, I have learned how to be self-reliant, but I know that if I need help, it is okay to ask. The best part of being in this department is that we are a community, and we support each other. I think this is one of the best experiences any student could have. I have one more year left to be involved in the Department of Writing and Linguistics, and, though I am sad to see the time pass so quickly, I cannot wait to see what it will bring me!



Kristen Flipppo

## Department News

### CLASS Advisement Center

English and Writing & Linguistics Advisor Christy Curley was selected to present at the National Academic Advising Association's (NACADA) annual conference in Las Vegas this October. She will be presenting on a model of academic coaching she has developed, using Newton's Law of Inertia as framework for creating an academic success plan.

Several advisors will be teaching FYE 1220: Freshmen Seminar classes. History and modern languages advisor Frank Benefield will teach both a summer and fall seminar, and justice studies advisor Kimberly Simpson will teach a fall section as well. Christy Curley, advisor for English and writing & linguistics, will teach the extended orientation section for FYE 1220 in the fall as well.

JoAnne White, advisor for general studies, was selected as Georgia Southern University's Outstanding Advisor of the Year and will go on to represent the University at an upcoming National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) conference. JoAnne also received the NACADA Certificate of Merit of the Outstanding Advising Award- Primary Advising Role.

Also receiving an award for the second year in a row, Jennifer Glenn, CLASS advisement coordinator, was named the 2015 Outstanding Administrator for Georgia Southern.

The Outstanding Advising Awards annually recognize individuals who have demonstrated qualities associated with outstanding academic advising of students or outstanding academic advising administration. All recipients will be honored at the Awards Ceremony held during the Annual Conference this Fall. Winners receive a complimentary basic registration for the Annual Conference, a recognition plaque, and a one-year membership in NACADA. Certificates of Merit may be awarded to other nominees.

## Rural Health Research Institute



Dr. Smalley receiving the 2015 Outstanding Educator Award from the National Rural Health Association CEO, Alan Morgan (left) and NRHA President, Jodi Schmidt (right)

Dr. Bryant Smalley, RHRI Executive Director and Associate Professor of Psychology, was named the 2015 Outstanding Educator of the Year by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) and was recognized at NRHA's annual conference in Philadelphia, PA, in April.

The Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) welcomes two new staff members--Dr. Maria Alexandrova (Postdoctoral Research Associate) and Mr. Dave Morrissey (RHRI's Administrative Coordinator).

An article written by Dr. Nikki Barefoot (RHRI) and Dr. Bryant Smalley (RHRI/Psychology) in collaboration with Dr. Amanda Rickard (GSU Counseling Center) and Dr. Jacob Warren (Mercer University) entitled "Rural Lesbians: Unique Challenges and Implications for Mental Health Providers" was published in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Rural Mental Health*.

Dr. Bryant Smalley (RHRI/Psychology) and Dr. Nikki Barefoot (RHRI), along with Dr. Jacob Warren (Mercer University), recently had the following articles accepted for publication:

Smalley, K.B., Warren, J.C., & Barefoot, K.N. (in press). Barriers to care and psychological distress differences between bisexual and gay men and women. *Journal of Bisexuality*.

Barefoot, K.N., Warren, J.C., & Smalley, K.B. (in press). An examination of past and current influences of rurality on lesbians' risks for overweight/obesity. *LGBT Health*.

Barefoot, K.N., Smalley, K.B., & Warren, J.C. (in press). Psychological distress and perceived barriers to care for rural lesbians. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health*.

Smalley, K.B., Warren, J.C., & Barefoot, K.N. (in press). Differences in health risk behaviors across understudied LGBT subgroups. *Health Psychology*.

RHRI researchers gave the following presentations at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association held in Hilton Head Island, SC:

Barefoot, K.N., Warren, J.C., & Smalley, K.B. (2015). An Examination of Substance and Alcohol Use for Rural Lesbians.

Smalley, K.B., Warren, J.C., & Barefoot, K.N. (2015). A Comparison of Mental Health Outcomes between Gay and Bisexual Men.

Meyrueix, L., Durham, G., Miller, J., Smalley, K.B., Barefoot, K.N., & Warren, J.C. (2015). Association between Depression and Aggression in Rural Women.

RHRI researchers gave the following presentations at the annual meeting of the National Rural Health Association in Philadelphia, PA:

Smalley, K.B., Warren, J.C. & Barefoot, K.N. (April 2015). Substance Use Differences between Rural/Urban LGBT Residents.

Barefoot, K.N., Smalley, K.B., & Warren, J.C. (April 2015). Psychological Distress/Barriers to Care in Rural Lesbians.

Barefoot, K.N., Warren, J.C. & Smalley, K.B., (April 2015). Ease of Access to Substances among Rural Students.



Warren, J.C., Smalley, K.B., & Barefoot, K.N. (April 2015). Rural Patients' Motivation for Weight Loss vs. Exercise.

## Foreign Languages

Dr. Michael McGrath recently participated in a conference sponsored jointly by the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Wyoming, entitled "Don Quixote in the American West: A Fourth-Centenary Celebration." In addition to presenting a paper at the conference ("The Anthropological Vision of Don Quixote"), Dr. McGrath chaired a session and also represented Juan de la Cuesta Hispanic Monographs, for which he serves as managing editor.



About 40 students attended.

Dr. Horst Kurz's enthusiasm and encouragement propelled nine students from his German Literature class to participate in The Great War that Changed the World, 1914-1918, a student conference hosted by Georgia Southern's History Department. Congratulations, Dr. Kurz, and congratulations to your students! (Students: Eduardo Arteaga, Maggie Edmonson, Mystery Ellert, Ryan Howard, Charlotte McDonald, Rebecca Niezen, Matt Piper, Lyndsey Shelton, Selina Stanley).

Dr. Noriko Mori-Kolbe and the Japanese club had a successful cultural event in the Russell Union on April 16. Participants learned aspects of Japanese culture such as origami paper craft, the use of chopsticks, and traditional cloth wrapping techniques.

## Political Science

Student Ashleigh Rasheed was just awarded a \$6,000 scholarship from Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society (for first-year students). She's a political science major with a minor in philosophy, an honors student with a 4.0 and a decorated multi-event track and field athlete. She's served as the vice-president and president of Phi Eta Sigma.

## Criminal Justice & Criminology

Dr. Laura Agnich was interviewed by *Harvard Political Review* for the article, "School Shootings: An American Problem?" Her cross-national research on school mass violence incidents was featured, particularly regarding the use of firearms to perpetrate mass violence in the U.S. compared to other nations.

Dr. Bryan Lee Miller traveled to Turku, Finland, to serve on Miika Vouri's doctoral dissertation. Mr. Vouri's work, *Social Solidarity and Fear of Crime: Community and Individual Approaches in Responses to Mass Violence after School Shootings*, was successfully defended at the University of Turku on April 10, 2015. Professor Pekka Räsänen from the Department of Social Research functioned as Custos and Dr. Miller served as the appointed opponent publicly questioning the work for the candidate to defend orally during the disputation.

Dr. Laura Agnich met with a consortium of researchers in the area of school mass violence incidents at the University of Turku in Finland for an invited talk titled, "Comparative Perspectives on School Shootings: The Aftermath for Communities in the U.S. and Finland."

Dr. Laurie Gould was recently interviewed by an international media outlet on her research stemming from her 2012 book *Corporal Punishment around the World* (co-authored with Dr. Matthew Pate). The news article discussed a recent case of corporal punishment in Saudi Arabia, and Dr. Gould's media appearance can be found here in German, or here translated to English.

Undergraduate students Krista Latham, working with Drs. Agnich and Policastro, and Mackenzie McBride, working with Dr. Posick, presented research at the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences' Center for Undergraduate Research and Intellectual Opportunities (CURIO) Symposium on April 22,

2015. Mackenzie's poster presentation, "The Brain and Criminally: A Biosocial Approach," explored the sociological, psychological, and biological theories of adolescent violent and delinquent behaviors. Krista's presentation, "Sexual Dating Violence: The Effects of Alcohol, Drug Use, and Sexual Orientation," utilized a university dataset to examine the relationship between drug and alcohol abuse, sexual behavior, sexual orientation, and sexual victimization in the context of dating relationships. Krista's research was further recognized, as she was the recipient of the CURIO Award for Social Sciences.

Senior Justice Studies student Jaime Grinch presented his research on attitudes toward governmental surveillance, under mentor Dr. Adam Bossler, at the annual Honors Research Symposium on April 17.



Mackenzie McBride (Left), Dr. Chad Posick (Right)

## History

The Technology and the Historian class applied for a grant/award for the class group project and won first place! This was an international competition with Early English Books Online (EEBO--a joint University of Michigan/Bodleian Library project) to "hack" their database of primary source texts from the 16th and 17th century (<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/get-involved/competitions-and-projects>). They were competing with entries from around the world, with a significant number of entries by Oxford University students in addition to our Georgia Southern team. Their proposal was to take *Hakluytus Posthumus; or Purchas His Pilgrimes*, a massive and unwieldy 4 volume (20 in the 1907 reprint) text from 1625, pull out the narratives of the initial voyages of the East India Company, map them with Google Fusion Tables, and then link to and cite other relevant primary source texts from the archive as well as scanned primary source texts at the Library of Congress. Congratulations to GSU students Murray Ruffner, Brandon Sharpe, Colin Hancock, Keimora Ellison and Raven Williams! They built the prototype with a bank of computers dating from ca. 2006. Digital Humanities is going global from the Georgia Southern History Lab.

Ashley Ellington, who earned her MA in the Department, plans to attend Kellogg College, Oxford University next year.

On Wednesday, April 15th, the students in Anna Alexander's Global Environmental History course presented their senior seminar papers in a poster session. This public presentation was part of the Center for Sustainability's "No Impact Week."

History Major Dylan Mulligan successfully presented his work at the 2015 Undergraduate Honors Research Symposium. His paper was entitled, "The Original Progressive Farmer: The Agricultural Legacy of Thomas Spalding of Sapelo." His Honors mentor was Jonathan Bryant.

The Georgia Association of Historians annual meeting was held on the Georgia Southern Campus on February 19-21, 2015. The meeting was very successful, with more than 120 registered participants. The opening night reception was held at the new Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau. There, Brent Tharp, Director of the Georgia Southern Museum and adjunct professor of History, addressed the audience about the creation of the "Museum on Main." Housed in the new SCVB building, it as a joint venture among the History Department, The Georgia Southern University Museum, and the Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

Jonathan M. Bryant became President-elect of the Georgia Association of Historians at the annual meeting. Bryant's *Dark Places of the Earth: The Voyage of the Slave Ship Antelope* a Pre-Publication pick by the Library Journal. <http://reviews.libraryjournal.com/2015/02/prepub/picks/fredrik-backman-c-j-box-shirley-jackson-the-voyage-of-the-slave-ship-antelope-jul-2015-pt-4/> Bryant also spoke to the Savannah City Employees on April 15, 2015. His topic was "Savannah and the Illegal Slave Trade."

The Department of History hosted a student conference on "The Great War That Changed the World, 1914-1918" on Thursday, April 2, 2015. The event was part of Georgia Southern University's ongoing commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the First World War. The conference featured three research panels and a poster session composed of graduate and undergraduate students from the Georgia Southern University's Departments of History and Foreign Languages, as well as students from Armstrong State University. The event also included a keynote address from Dr. Charles Thomas, Professor of History Emeritus, which was attended by over 150 students and faculty. Dr. Thomas lectured on the introduction of poison gas to World War I, the Brusilov Offensive, and German use of unrestricted submarine warfare, in his talk "Blowback: Calculation, Miscalculation, and Unintended Consequences in the First World War." Sheila Boone, a History MA student who coordinated the exhibit, was featured in a front page article in the *Statesboro Herald*. <http://www.statesboroherald.com/section/1/article/67185/>

Kathleen M. Comerford, organized five sessions at the Renaissance Society of America conference in Berlin (March 25-28,

2015) and presented the paper "Jesuit Colleges in the Early Seventeenth Century" at a sixth session. She is now the Associate Editor of the *Journal of Jesuit Studies*, published by Brill (Leiden, The Netherlands) and based at the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies at Boston College.

Emerson McMullen gave a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science on 14 March 2015, and chaired the History and Philosophy of Science Section.

Anna Alexander was invited to give a public lecture at the University of Kansas for its "Latin America and its Diaspora Series." The talk was delivered on April 28th and entitled, "Healing the Hazardous City: Hygiene Experts and the Fight Against Fire in Mexico City, 1860-1910." Alexander also presented a paper entitled, "Healing in the Bark: Biocolonialism, Indigenous Knowledge, and Social Protest in Mexico, 1980-present," at the American Society for Environmental History in Washington D.C., March 18-22.

Brian K. Feltman published *The Stigma of Surrender: German Prisoners, British Captors, and Manhood in the Great War and Beyond* with the University of North Carolina Press. He gave a public lecture titled "Confronting the Stigma of Surrender: Soldierly Virtue, Manhood, and German Prisoners of War during the Great War" at The University of Alaska at Anchorage on March 26. The following day, he delivered a key note lecture titled "Assembling the Fragments: Discovering the German Soldiers of the Great War through Archival Sources" to the Phi Alpha Theta Alaska State Conference in Anchorage. Feltman also presented "We too Should Lay Down Our Lives for Our Brothers: The Material Culture of Memory in WWI Germany" at the meeting of the Society for Military History in Montgomery, AL, on April 12, 2015

Christian Abreu published *Rhythms of Race: Cuban Musicians and the Making of Latino/a New York City and Miami, 1940-1960* with the University of North Carolina Press.

Bill Allison was a discussant for a 3-paper panel on "Preparation, Adaptation, and Instruction in the US Army" and participated on a 4-person round-table on "De-Mystifying the Hiring Process: The View from the other Side of the Table" for graduate students at the meeting of the Society for Military History in Montgomery, AL, on April 12, 2015.

Jeff Burson presented papers at the French Historical Studies Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs (17 April 2015), the Renaissance Studies Association in Berlin (26 March 2015), the South Central Conference of Eighteenth-Century Studies in Point Clear, AL, and the Georgia Association of Historians in Statesboro (21 February 2015).

Michael VanWagenen participated on a three-person panel at the National Council on Public History Annual Conference in Nashville which discussed the merits of the 2014 Visual History Summer Institute held at Georgia Southern.

Johnathan O'Neill gave an invited presentation on "Constitutionalism and American Conservatism in the Twentieth Century" at the Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, UK, in March.

## Communication Arts

The spring banquet of the Department of Communication Arts was held at Williams Center at 5 p.m. on April 23rd (Thursday). Alumni, families of students, and faculty celebrated graduating seniors and winners of alumni of the year, students of the year, sub-categories in each communication sequence, and scholarships.

Senior Theatre major, Teundras Oaks, travelled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre National Festival as one of four students selected nationwide in the dramaturgical competition. She was awarded a full scholarship to participate in the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers New Play workshop at the Kennedy Center in July as well as a full scholarship to go to India in September to teach theatre through Artists Striving to End Poverty (ASTEP).

Communication Arts Faculty and students attended the 85th Annual Convention of the Southern States Communication Association (SSCA) held in Tampa, FL, on April 9-12, 2015.

Six Communication Arts undergraduates, who were among only 80 undergraduate students across the southeast chosen to present papers, participated in the Theodore Clevinger Undergraduate Honors Conference:

- Trevor Coen, a senior Communication Studies major, presented "Sex Trafficking: Awareness Does Not Equal Activism."





Christy Rikard (Communication Studies, 07), Associate Director of Admissions, talks about how her major helped her develop a career.

- Amber Juncker, a senior Communication Studies major, presented "The War on Mass Shootings: A Critical Examination of Sandy Hook."

Kassie Nattrass, a senior Public Relations major, presented "Gender Stereotypes in Legally Blonde."

Faith Stevenot, a senior Communication Studies major, presented "Animation and the Revival of Women in Power: A Gender Analysis of Sailor Moon and R.W.B.Y."

Claire Torell, a senior Communication Arts major, presented "The Feminine Feminist: An ideological Criticism of Emma Watson's UN Speech."

Daniela West, a senior Public Relations major, presented "Terrorism Is War: A Metaphorical Analysis of George Bush's 9/11 Address to the Nation."

Communication Arts faculty presentations included:

- Dr. Pam Bourland-Davis, chair of the department and professor of Public Relations, presented on the art and craft of teaching Public Relations. Her presentation was entitled "Branding: Marketing Term for Established Public Relations Practice." Dr. Bourland-Davis also moderated a panel discussion on The Art and Craft of Social Presence: It's Not Just for the Online Classroom Anymore.
- Dr. Abby Brooks, associate professor of Communication Studies, moderated a panel discussion on the Art of Crafting Your Career as You Integrate into a Faculty Line and participated in a panel discussion on Applying Activities to Principles of Human Communication. Dr. Brooks was served as the respondent for the Top Papers in Applied Communication and as the respondent for the Undergraduate Honors panel on Crafting Messages for Effective Communication and Positive Change. Additionally, Dr. Brooks served the association as the 2014-2015 Chair of the Applied Communication Division.

- Professor Michelle Groover, Lecturer in Public Relations, presented "Crisis on the Rails: How the Metropolitan Transit Authority Used Social Media during the Metro-North Derailment."
- Dr. Chris Geyerman, associate professor of Communication Studies, presented a paper entitled "Protecting the Shield: Sports Media (Re)Framing of Domestic Violence and the Dissipation of Social Responsibility in the Ray Rice Case." Dr. Geyerman also served as the respondent for the Undergraduate Honors panel on Critiques of Popular Media.
- Dr. Patrick Wheaton, assistant professor of Communication Studies, moderated and critiqued the townhall debate on the question of whether Public Speaking and Collegiate Forensics ought to teach students to persuade the general public. Dr. Wheaton also participated in a roundtable discussion of communication in the 2014 midterm Congressional elections and served as the respondent to the Top Papers in Argumentation. As vice-chair of the Argumentation and Forensics Division, Dr. Wheaton was also served as a planner for the 2015 convention. Additionally, in 2015, Dr. Wheaton is serving SSCA as the chair of the Time and Place Committee and will direct the selection of the site for the 2020 convention.

Theatre & Performance is proud to present a celebration of the exploration of African American Theatre on the Georgia Southern stage. The exhibit will include set and costume pieces from past productions, video and photo displays, and live performances of scene work from selected plays. The exhibit will be open from 9am to 5pm with special times TBA for performances. Saturday, May 2, at 7 p.m.; a performance of selected scenes highlight the past productions centered around African American Theatre. Current students and alumni will perform in these visits to the GSU stage over the past thirty years. The evening will be hosted by Actor Bob Gossett.

A collaboration of our Multimedia Film & Production (MMFP) students and alumni won the Best Film and Viewer's Choice awards at the Statesboro Film Festival on Friday. The name of the film is "Sunny Side Up." Joe Guglielmetti (recent alum) and Yashir Alamdari (student) directed the short film. Hannah Morris (student) served as executive producer. Julien Verdon (student) served as producer and assistant director. The 2nd unit director was Grant Hoover (student), who supervised audio and music. Ben Bentley's daughter, Elizabeth, was the makeup artist. And professor Tyson Davis along with student Kristen Mazza acted in it.

Professor Michelle Groover, Lecturer in Public Relations, successfully defended her dissertation in March and will be awarded a PhD in Communications by Regent University in May. Congratulations, Dr. Groover!

Dr. Steven "Steve" Stepanek (Assistant Professor), 59, passed away on Apr. 18, 2015, at East Georgia Regional Medical Center. He taught Multimedia Communication for eight years at the Department of Communication Arts.

Jim Lanier (Multimedia Communication) is a trainee in a highly selective two-year program, The New York Assistant Director Training Program, which is designed to provide opportunities for a limited number of individuals to become assistant directors in film. Currently he is a Production Assistant in New York City on the CBS network program "Elementary." He was formerly the Manager of Loco's Restaurant in Statesboro who returned to school in his late 20s to change careers by completing our MMC-Production curriculum.

Elizabeth Harvill, (MPA, Director of Marketing & Community Relations, Meadows Regional Medical Center), Communication Arts alum, was selected as one of the top hospital marketers of the year and will be honored live at an induction ceremony at the Four Seasons, Atlanta, GA, as part of DTC Perspectives' 2015 Hospital Marketing National Conference. The Top Hospital Marketers of the Year Awards recognize extraordinary hospital marketers driving innovation, spearheading great creative, and working toward better branding for their hospital, health system, or facility. Honorees were judged based on industry reputation, accomplishments, innovation, and notoriety among their peers, partners, and media.

MMFP students that were shooting part of their film project for Tyson Davis' Apps class in our new Sanford Hall Film Studio (2nd. Floor). The scene they were filming on the green screen was a skydiving dream sequence that will later be composited with backgrounds and other visual effects using Adobe AfterEffects.

MMFP 3030 Georgia Southern Feature Film Project course this summer just launched its IndieGogo campaign in April! Students are trying to get the word out so potential contributors will fund our production, which will take place over the extended summer term (9-weeks). The IndieGogo site is here:<http://igg.me/at/RelicsOfTheMadreVena/x>.

The Spring 2015 Performance Studies Showcase will be on Wednesday, May 6th, 6:30-7:30 in the Visual and Performance Arts classroom, 3003 Sanford Hall. The showcase features student work from previous and current performance studies courses, including the ensemble performance which traveled to the 2015 Patti Pace Performance Festival in New Orleans and solo and ensemble work based on interviews students gathered for the Vidalia Onion Oral History and Performance Project. The event is free and open to the public.



## Literature & Philosophy

Since December, Dr. Tim Whelan has had two articles appear in print, "Mary Scott, Sarah Froud, and the Steele Literary Circle: A Revealing Annotation to The Female Advocate," in the *Huntington Library Quarterly* 77.4 (2014), pp. 435-52; and "Wilhelm Benecke, Crabb Robinson, and 'rational faith,' 1819-1837," in the *Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society* 26.1 (2015), pp. 51-78. Dr. Whelan also traveled to the UK in March to present a paper titled, "Mary Steele, Mary Hays, Crabb Robinson, and the Convergence of Women's Circles in the 1790s," at the Conference on Networks of Improvement, at the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of York, on 14 March 2015. His essay will appear in a special issue later this year of the *Journal of Eighteenth-Century Studies* edited by Professor Jon Mee, Director of the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies at York. In October Dr. Whelan was awarded a grant of \$1300 by the Faculty Research Committee, to assist in his expenses that will be incurred during time as a Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Queen Mary, University of London, 15 May-21 June 2015. During Dr. Whelan's Fellowship, he will be the featured speaker at a conference, "Nonconformist Women and Their Literary Practices, 1650-1850," hosted by the Dr. Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies and the School of English and Drama, Queen Mary, University of London, on 30 May 2015. Dr. Whelan's presentation is entitled "'Prove Yourself a Heroine!' Mary Steele's Danbury and Women's Manuscript Coterie, 1768-1779."

## Music

John Thompson presented his 8 channel audiovisual composition "Accretion Flows" at the International Festival for Innovations in Music Production and Composition in Leeds, U.K., in mid-March. "Accretion Flows" will be featured at the national conference for the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States at Virginia Tech in late March and at the New York City Electro-Acoustic Music Festival in June.

Saturday, March 21, 2015, The Averitt Center for the Arts in downtown Statesboro celebrated the grand opening of its newest facility, the Center for Performing Arts, at 41 W. Main Street with its first performance "Arts In the West End." The evening featured Georgia Southern Faculty in a collective performance of the arts. Under Kelly Berry's beautiful lighting, Michael Braz played the piano as Sarah Hancock, Kyle Hancock, Tamara Watson Harper, alumnus Pedro Carreras, and Arikka Gregory performed excerpts from *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Tosca*, and *Carmen*. The performance brought audience members in the new 70-seat black box theater to their feet!



## Art

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art hosted ArtsFest on Saturday, April 11. The festival, in its 33rd year, joins the University and Community together to celebrate the visual and performing arts. Headlining the main stage were musical acts Those Cats, F-Beams of the Music Department, and Pladd Dot Music's School of Rock.

On April 8th, the BFSDoArt welcomed MFA alumni Desmal Purcell ('04) as the 3rd speaker for their spring Professions in Practice series. Purcell is an artist, traveler and teacher who actively engages participation from audiences through innovative projects and exhibitions. Purcell was co-director/co-founder of Gallery A.D. in Savannah, GA, owner of DK Arts in Statesboro, GA, and is a co-founding member of the arts advocacy group Stillmoreroots. Mr. Purcell's is currently the Director of the Kalmanson Gallery, East Georgia College Art Gallery, and the Longshot Gallery. Purcell regularly exhibits his artworks both nationally and internationally. He believes strongly in the power of art to unite communities through a consistent commitment to collaboration and communication.

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art hosted the annual exhibitions Juried Undergraduate and Form and Content. Both of these exhibitions highlight student achievement in the visual arts.

Juried Undergraduate was juried by Susannah Darrow, the executive director and co-founder for Burnaway. Undergraduate artists include Kathleen Blankenship, Austin Cates, Chloe Coulibaly, Luke Criddle, Shaunte Francois, Stewart Goodall, Shani Granderson, Lindsey Halstead, D'antre Harris, Jasmine Haynes, Justin Hinckley, Erika Jordan, Joseph Key, Tommy McMillan, Sydney Moscowite, Hannah Offenhauer, Ray Pettit, Toni Pollack, Katie Randall, Haley Rawlins, David Rostal, Rachel Sand, Madeline Shelor, Emmitt Smith, Hailey Smith, Mariah Smith, Margarita Suarez and Raven Waters. Students awarded were:

Best in Show: Erika Jordan, The Portrait of Naonei, Oil on Canvases  
 Juror's Choice: Katie Randall, Sun, Oil on Canvas  
 Exceptional 2D: Emmitt Smith, Narcissista the Tourista, Oil on Canvas  
 Exceptional 3D: Shaunte Francois, Chakras, Copper and New Gold  
 Honorable Mention: Tommy McMillan, Scotsman, Oil on Canvas

Form & Content, an exhibition focused on the foundations of visual art was juried by Donald Martin of Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL. Students selected for the show were Rachel Babot, Kristin Baethke, Hannah Bright, Sam Cleveland, Damon Eike, Clarisa Calderon-Figueroa, Erin Fortenberry, Haleigh Gay, Markia Gibbs, Thyatira Grant, Elisa Groccia, Alexandra Hendrix, Quinn Howard, Abbie Hutchins, Jennie Kalbnik, Lexus Lewis, Jessie Martin, Cassidy McCrea, LyAnna Mitchell, June Moore, Emily Oren, Keyanna Palmer, Ashley Radar, Edgar Range, Carley Ray, Jacqueline Reese, Janesha Rhodes, Kasey Roberts, Elise Rustine, Katherine Sanders, Jonathan Simons, Virginia Skinner, Demi Stoddard, KeJaun Tanksley, Elisabeth Waters Raven Waters and MacKenzie Willard.

Students awarded were:

Best in Show: Lexus Lewis  
Best in Drawing I: Mackenzie Willard  
Best in Drawing II: Cassidy McCrea  
Best in 2-D: Elise Rustine  
Best in 3-D: Markia Gibbs

Santanu Majumdar, Graphic Design Professor, will be speaking at TEDx Lancaster on 16th May about "The State of Design Education."

The 2014 Savannah American Advertising Federation Awards were held on Wednesday, April 8, at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler, GA. Georgia Southern brought home more student awards than any other college or university in the Savannah area. The list of winners from the Savannah ADDY Awards is as follows:

Brooke Fremeau received a Gold ADDY and Best of Show (student category) for Zoetic Apparel Brand Guidelines; Alexandra Tobia received a Gold ADDY for Eight Nine Design; Stephanie Neal received a Silver ADDY for the "I Am Team Ocean" Campaign; Affaf Aslam received a Silver ADDY for The New Dollar Bill; Alexander Smith received a Silver ADDY for Maussane Olive Oil; Michelle Parmar received a Silver ADDY for The A-Z Book; Hailey Smith received a Bronze ADDY for the Alitalia Identity Manual; Marcus Cook received a Bronze ADDY for Eight Nine Design Stationery; Jordan Michel received a Bronze ADDY for All Roads Lead to Rome; Yendi Reid received a Bronze ADDY for Lonely Planet Travel App.

"To Scale: Considering Dimension in the Creative Process" features new and recent artworks by D'Antre Harris, Mandy Mousch, Katie Randall, and Emmitt Smith. The exhibition will be on display in the Visual Arts Building's Gallery 303 from March 27th-May 8th.

BFSDoArt student Justin Hinkley and Brian Burns from the mechanical engineering program presented at the Phi Kappa Phi research symposium. Their project titled, "Design and Implementation of an Interactive Animatronic System for Guest Response Analysis," was very interesting and a wonderful example of a collaborative project between Engineering and Art. It illustrated the importance of the artist and the engineer, and the presentation was beautifully presented by both students.

## Alumni News

**Kelsey Robertson ('11)** is now Graphic Designer at Aspen Marketing.

**Kristin Miller ('14)** is now a Designer at Bahama Joes.

**Max Rebel ('10) and MFA ('14)** is now a Graphic Designer at 3B Scientific in Atlanta, GA.

**Emy Mixon ('08)** is now the Marketing Coordinator at Wahoo Docks.

**Lindsay (Byrnside) Tyson ('04)** received a Silver ADDY for Georgia Southern's Office of Admissions new recruitment campaign.

**Stephanie Arends Neal ('03)** received a Bronze ADDY for campaign material supporting the United Way of Southeast Georgia's 'Tasting Statesboro... the United Way.'

**Krista Pierce ('99)** works with Georgia Power in the Volunteer Services organization to coordinate community service efforts both with active employees and company retirees across the state.



**Michael Patrick Gilbert ('94)** accepted a job at Oldcastle Architectural in Atlanta as a production artist in the marketing department.

Share your updates with us through [email](#) or by filling out the [online alumni survey](#). It is always wonderful to hear from you!

## Upcoming Events

### ART

May 4-8

#### **GALLERIES Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition**

University & Contemporary galleries, Center for Art & Theatre | 912.GSU.ARTS

### MUSIC

May 1

#### **CONCERT Choral Recital**

7:30 p.m. | Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building | 912.478.5396

May 3

#### **CONCERT Symphonic Wind Ensemble**

7:30 p.m. | Performing Arts Center | 912.478.5396

### THEATRE

April 27-May 1

#### **EXHIBITION *Celebrating 30 Years of African-American Theatre at Georgia Southern***

Black Box Theatre, Center for Art and Theatre | 912.478.5379

April 30 & May 1

#### **THEATRE *An Evening of One-Acts***

7:30 p.m. | Black Box Theatre, Center for Art and Theatre | 912.478.5379

May 2

#### **THEATRE *An Evening of African-American Theatre***

7:30 p.m. | Black Box Theatre, Center for Art and Theatre | 912.478.5379

[\[ View Complete Event List \]](#)

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